

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 PM-07 L-03 M-03 A-01 PER-05

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-15 NSC-10 IGA-02

PRS-01 RSR-01 /094 W

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R 081207Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5295

INFO DIA

CINCPAC

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 5537

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AFSP, MARR, MASS, LA

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF DAO IN VIENTIANE:

NOTIFYING ACCREDITED PERSONNEL TO
FOREIGN MINISTRY

REF: A. VIENTIANE 5400

B. VIENTIANE 5504

1. WE INTERPRET PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER QUOTED REF B AS CONVEYING IMPLIED AGREEMENT TO THE ENTIRE DESIGN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE (DAO) OUTLINED IN MY LETTER OF AUGUST 2, WITH THE SIGNLE ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATION THAT THE NUMBER OF MILITARY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO DAO NOT EXCEED 30.

2. WE THEREFORE PLAN TO TAKE NECESSARY STEPS WITH RLG TO PREPARE FOR ASSUMPTION OF DUTIES BY BRIGADIER GENERAL RICHARD G. TREFRY AS DEFENSE ATTACHE. WE PROPOSE TO PROCEED BY SENDING A ROUTINE NOTE TOMORROW TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NOTIFYING THE MINISTRY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DAO AND
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OF THE NAMES OF THE ACCREDITED MILITARY PERSONNEL: IN

THE DAO. THAT LIST WILL READ AS FOLLOWS:

BRIGADIER GENERAL RICHARD G. TREFRY - DEFENSE ATTACHE

CAPTAIN LEE C. MILES - NAVAL ATTACHE

COLONEL BROADUS BAILEY, JR - ARMY ATTACHE

LT. COLONEL WAYNE O. LANDEN - AIR ATTACHE

PLUS THE TWO ARMY ATTACHES AND THREE ASSISTANT AIR ATTACHES (INCLUDING ONE ARRIVING NEXT WEEK) NOW ACCREDITED. WE BELIEVE THAT THE EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES OBTAINING IN LAOS AND PERTAINING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF: THE DAO IN VIENTIANE INDICATE THAT COLONEL BAILEY SHOULD CONTINUE AS ARMY ATTACHE. THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE WILL BE CARRYING OUT IN LAOS BOTH THE NORMAL ATTACHE FUNCTIONS AND THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. GENERAL TREFRY WILL BE DEVOTING THE MAJOR SHARE OF HIS TIME TO THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF LOGISTICS FUNCTIONS HERETOFORE PERFORMED BY USAID REQUIREMENTS OFFICE AND REAR SUPPORT ELEMENT AT UDORN. COLONEL BAILEY HAS, IN THE COURSE OF HIS 16 MONTHS IN VIENTIANE, DEVELOPED AN EXCEEDINGLY PRODUCTIVE AND BROAD RANGE OF CONTACTS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, AND WE REGARD IT ESSENTIAL THAT THESE LINES OF COMMUNICATION REMAIN OPEN AND UNIMPAIRED. THIS CAN BE DONE BEST IF HE RETAINS HIS POSITION AS ARMY ATTACHE.

3. GENERAL TREFRY WILL TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN VIENTIANE AS SOON AS HE RECEIVES APPROPRIATE DOD ORDERS. WE WOULD HOPE THAT SUCH ORDERS CAN BE ISSUED WITHIN THE WEEK. THESE ORDERS MUST CLEARLY INDICATE THAT, IN ADDITION TO HIS DUTIES AS DEFENSE ATTACHE, HE WILL HAVE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OVER THE DEPCH PERSONNEL IN UDORN. IT WAS WITH THE ARGUMENT THAT WE NEEDED A SINGLE MANAGER IN VIENTIANE WITH SUCH AUTHORITY THAT WE SUCCESSFULLY JUSTIFIED TO PRIME MINISTER SOUVNNA PHOUMA OUR INTENTION TO ESTABLISH THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE. REQUEST DEPARTMENT FOLLOW-UP WITH DOD ON CONFIDENTIAL

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ISSUANCE OF APPROPRIATE ORDERS.

4. I SUGGEST THAT THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE FORWARD SUPPORT ELEMENT MOVE FROM UDORN, THAILAND INTO LAOS ONLY AS THE FIRST INCREMENT OF JCS PROJECT 404 PERSONNEL DEPARTS FROM LAOS AFTER INVESTITURE OF THE NEW PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. THE REMAINING 17 MEMBERS OF THE USAID REQUIREMENTS OFFICE,

WHO PERFORM LOGISTICS FUNCTIONS WHICH WILL ULTIMATELY
BE ASSUMED BY THE DAO FORWARD SUPPORT ELEMENT, WILL
REMAIN IN LAOS UNTIL THE NEW FORWARD SUPPORT ELEMENT
IS IN PLACE AND UNTIL SUCH TIME AS WASHINGTON DIRECTS
THAT THEY SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN TO COMPLY WITH THE
PROVISIONS OF THE LAO AGREEMENTS.
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